

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kenneth Charles SYMES, et al.

Continuation Application under Rule 53(b)
Appln. No.: 09/635,263

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: July 31, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: POLYMERIC MATERIALS AND THEIR USE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new Claims 16-27.

16. A liquid detergent composition comprising polymer particles having reacted onto their surfaces a polymeric amphipathic stabiliser comprising an addition polymer of hydrophobic monomer units and hydrophilic monomer units wherein the hydrophilic monomer units comprise carboxylic free acid or acid salt units and reactive monomer units selected from (a) glycidyl monomer units and (b) anhydride monomer units wherein the amount of anhydride units is either below 10% by weight total monomer units or is less than 19% by weight total carboxylic acid monomer units.

17. The liquid detergent of claim 16 in which the amount of the reactive monomer units in the stabilizer is less than 10% by weight total monomer units.

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18. The liquid detergent of claim 16 in which the amount of reactive monomer units in the stabilizer is at least 0.5% by weight.

19. The liquid detergent of claim 16 in which the amount of the reactive monomer units in the stabilizer is 1 to 5%, preferably 1 to 3%, by weight.

20. The liquid detergent of any preceding claims 16 to 19 in which the reactive monomer units in the stabilizer are selected from glycidyl acrylate and glycidyl methacrylate.

21. The liquid detergent of any of claims 16 to 19 in which the reactive monomer units in the stabilizer are maleic anhydride.

22. The liquid detergent of any of claims 16 to 19 in which the hydrophilic monomer units in the stabilizer comprise 5 to 30% by weight carboxylic monomer units and 0 to 20% by weight hydroxyalkyl monomer units and the reactive monomer units.

23. The liquid detergent of claim 22 in which the hydrophilic monomer units in the stabilizer contains at least 10% by weight of the carboxylic acid monomer units.

24. The liquid detergent of any of the preceding claims 16 to 19 in which the stabilizer is formed from at least 20% by weight C₈₋₂₄(meth) acrylate units and at least 10% by weight C₁₋₄(meth) acrylate or styrene units.

25. The liquid detergent of any of the preceding claims 16 to 19 in which the stabilizer comprises 25 to 70% by weight C₈₋₂₄ alkyl methacrylate, 15 to 40% methyl methacrylate and/or styrene, 5 to 30% methacrylic acid and/or maleic acid, 0 to 20% hydroxyalkyl (meth) acrylate and 1 to 5% maleic anhydride and/or glycidyl (meth) acrylate.

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26. The liquid detergent of any of the preceding claims 16 to 19 in which the surface of the polymeric particles comprise reactive groups reacted with glycidyl or anhydride groups in the stabilizer.

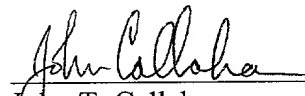
27. The liquid detergent of claim 26, wherein the surface of the polymeric particles has been formed by reverse phase polymerisation or interfacial condensation.

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been maintained in the application so that the application cannot be construed as not having any claims pending at one point in time. The Examiner is authorized to Cancel Claim 1 after entry of new Claims 16-27.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: July 31, 2001

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ATTACHMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

New Claims 16-27 have been added.